

OKAUCHEE LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

Monday, August 27, 2018 7:00 p.m.
To be held at the **Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall**
W359 N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 53066

Minutes

Call to Order

Chairperson Carol Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notice Announcement

The Meeting Notice Announcement was emailed to the newspapers and municipalities; sent via U.S. Mail to all riparian owners within the Okauchee Lake Management District (OLMD); posted on the two public notice bulletin boards; posted on the board outside of the Town Hall; and posted on the OLMD website.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chairperson will open the meeting:

Introduction of Commissioners

Chairperson and County Representative Carol Wilson introduced herself and the OLMD commissioners: Dee Schriver, Treasurer; Tom Godar, Secretary, Dennis Johnson, Liaison - Lake Operations Manager; and Bruce Mueller, Town Representative. All were present with the exception of Dennis Johnson, Liaison - Lake Operations Manager.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting

Jane Bruner, N57W34402 Nickels Point Rd., moved to approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting as presented. Doug Larsen, N53W34257 Road Q, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report, Discuss and Act

Treasurer D. Schriver reviewed the Treasurer's Report as of June 30, 2018 and reported the following:

Revenues	\$328,683.27
Expenditures	<u>\$122,240.72</u>
Balance	\$206,442.55

J. Bruner moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. D. Larson seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Police Department Reports

Lake Patrol

Town of Oconomowoc Police Officer Andrew Williams was present and reported the following:

YTD Statistics from 2018 were:

Patrol hours to date	466
Accidents	0
Citations issued	90
Boating OWI's	5
Warnings issued	343 (a ratio of 1 citation/5.17 patrol hours on the lake)
Boater Safety Classes	0 (due to lack of students)

Tom Cardella, W343N5212 Gietzen Road, questioned the patrol hours spent on the lake. A. Williams explained patrol hours often included weekends from 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. or later if there was an event. Holidays differed from those hours. Patrols generally occurred in four hour shifts with portions of the typical eight hour shift on the road and then the remaining four hours on boat patrol. Two boat patrols were typically available with two officers on each boat for safety.

Officer Williams reported the following:

2018 Okauchee Lake Boat Tie-Up-number of boats provided:

DNR	2 (4)
Town of Oconomowoc Police	2 (0)
Town of Merton Police	2 (1)
Waukesha Co. Sheriff's Dept.	1 (0)
Total number of arrests	5 (Operating while intoxicated arrests noted in ()'s above)

Bob Sokolowicz, N64W34899 Road J, questioned a recent boat fire. **Ron Boroski, W340N4859 Road O**, explained he was the boat owner with the recent boat fire. He had been boating for 30 years without a similar issue. He had been boating around the lake and was idling back toward his property when his engine died. There was no excuse for the engine stoppage so he turned on the blower and tried to re-start it to no avail. When he opened the boat's engine compartment there were flames inside. He was able to get off the boat and no one was hurt. He remained uncertain about whether the fire was caused by fuel or electrical issues. There did not seem to be an apparent cause for the fire.

D. Larsen requested an update on the human remains found in the lake in the past year. A. Williams explained the matter remained under investigation and all data had been sent to appropriate agencies.

Lauren Smith, W336N6425 Lakeview Lane, questioned whether citations were given for people boating too close to another boat. A. Williams explained the issue was that people were boating too close to shore or with jet skis too close to other boats. Jet skis were not allowed to be within 100 foot of a boat or within 200 feet of shore. Officers did their best to re-educate boaters and skiers about boater safety, Slow No Wake, etc. It was similar in situation to motorists on the roadway that needed re-education from time to time.

T. Godar questioned whether vandalism was as prevalent as last year. A. Williams noted there had been more in the prior year than this year which was positive. While theft of boat contents was not as prevalent this year, people always lost items on the lake. There was a Facebook page titled "It Floated Away on Okauchee" where people posted lost and found items to be retrieved.

Richard Koch, N55W34649 Road E, suggested consideration should be given to requesting boaters that towed a skier to have an orange flag attached to the tow rope or boat for better visibility. In this way other boaters would see the flag and know that someone was being towed behind. Skiers could also wear an orange glove for visibility as well. This seemed especially important because the state laws changed that no longer required an observer when towing a skier. A. Williams noted tow lines were equipped with buoyancy balls in Missouri and it worked well to enhance visibility.

Doug Grant, N53W34359 Road Q, questioned the target subject for the radius rule that forbid skiers from skiing 360 degrees around a boat. A. Williams explained this was related to jet skiers most of the time. A boat would turn in circles to cause big waves and the jet skier would go faster and faster until eventually they fell. A boater that was continuously turning in circles would make a bigger wave that would impede use of the lake and this would become a problem due to high wave activity.

Aquatic Plant Management Report

Discussion on Muskrat Control

Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper, explained his original intent with the spring portion of the 2018 Muskrat Control Program was to trap the entire lake in a week to ten days when the ice was out. He had worked the whole lake doing a third of the 13 miles of shoreline at a time and dividing the rest as he went around the lake. The early spring time of year was the primary mating season for muskrats and there was little weed growth so burrows could be located easily. In addition, there were fewer boaters on the lake and many piers were out of the water. He did not realize the number of residents that wintered away. When they returned to Okauchee Lake, they began calling him and he worked on the lake until mid-June to be able to take care of those residential properties. Overall, 319 muskrats were caught in spring with another 50 caught from mid-May to early July. There were still a couple traps out at this time. He would trap again in mid-November to allow boats and weeds to die down and most piers to be removed. Because Wisconsin continued to have warmer wetter summers, the muskrats responded by having larger litters three times a year. He recommended continuing the program in 2019 with a trapping in the early spring, again in May to make sure people had been taken care of around the lake, and once again in the fall. He had seen many other animals while out on the lake including raccoons, woodchucks, skunks and some red foxes with mange. When he trapped the muskrats this fall, he would set out cage traps for raccoons as well. If residents lived on a quiet bay then muskrats were likely in, on or near the property. If residents spotted a muskrat burrow on their property in the future, they should put a flag out to mark the location. This would help him a great deal when trapping in November. Many people wanted him to trap their property but had a boathouse full of items. If some items could be removed then he could get inside to trap, otherwise, it was difficult for him to access those properties. In addition, permission was required for A. Groehler to enter individual properties. A form could be filled out at the time of trapping or downloaded and

printed from the “Forms” page on the OLMD website. Written permission and signature was required. Verbal authorizations were not allowed.

Gary Steinmueller, Lake Operations Manager, explained 192 truckloads of weeds had been removed from the lake at this time. Barges were bringing back five to six loads per day. The weed cutting crew had attempted to hit the “hot spots” before the weed growth exploded in the spring. The crew tried to respond to calls from all over the lake as best they could. The Highway C area had the most weed growth this year. That area had been cut 22 times with extra trips at the end of shifts or beginning of the day to attempt to clean up floaters. People had resorted to extreme measures in the past year with the use of power washers into the water. This only uprooted the weeds and stirred the silt. In addition, people had placed tarps in the lake in an attempt to suffocate the weeds. He asked that residents please do not do this. When coming through with the weed cutters, the blades could easily pick up the tarps that could then get tangled in the cutter and potentially kill someone. Cutters had hit bricks in the water or stakes and required repair as a result. G. Steinmueller was happy with the crew this year. They had worked very hard. The crew had been offered bonuses to stay as late as possible into the cutting season. The crew would be significantly reduced by the end of August. Advertisements had been placed in the newspaper for a fall crew with little response. He had used several websites, including Craigslist, Monster and posted ads in *The Journal Sentinel*. This year the crew had been hired at \$10.50 per hour. Most of the crew indicated they would return next year. The crew was given a \$0.50 raise for operating the barge and the cutters. All of the crew knew how to do both this year and he gave the crew a lot of credit for what they accomplished this year. They had worked very hard with heavy equipment. The cutters would run on a reduced schedule after the end of August; however, he would barge as long as possible.

L. Smith thanked G. Steinmueller and the crew for the diligent efforts this year. The crew was polite, hardworking and fantastic. She questioned the depth of the cutter. G. Steinmueller explained the cutter depth was to 5.5 feet. In shallow water, the cutters were not able to cut as well. Tops could be cut off but could not get any deeper. Areas such as Gastricks Bay and Stevens Bay were difficult to cut because of sunken logs and boulders. L. Smith questioned the “gunk” floating in the lake water near the river and by the Cranes Nest earlier this summer. G. Steinmueller explained this was a type of algae. It would not hurt anyone but was difficult to pick up along with the weeds because it wrapped itself around the weed stems. The gases would release and the algae would start floating and turn yellow. Once plants and algae turned yellow, they could no longer be easily picked up. The heat had increased the algae population throughout the summer as well. T. Cardella appreciated the cutting crew efforts noting the lake seemed to be better than Pewaukee Lake as a result.

D. Larsen suggested the use of Facebook for advertising. It was cheaper than a newspaper ad and had more viewers in the target audience than other sites.

R. Koch noted the weed problem seemed to increase after spring time. Many people had lawn services that sprayed the lawns. Fertilizer should not be applied on lawns next to the lakeshore. Discussion ensued. Use of fertilizer in certain areas was prohibited by state law and most commercial lawn services abided by the law. The use of fertilizer was often systemic from other runoff areas upstream.

On behalf of the OLMD, C. Wilson thanked G. Steinmueller and the entire lake crew for their hard

work this season. It was greatly appreciated.

Proposed 2019 Budget, Discuss & Act

D. Schriver reviewed the Proposed 2019 budget. Expenditures were anticipated to be similar to last year. Riparian property owner special charges relative to aquatic plant control were \$236.50 in the 2018 budget. The proposed 2019 budget noted the special charges for aquatic plant control to be \$259.90. The funding for the Muskrat Control Program was noted in the Goose Round-Up category.

Scott Lovas, W343M6503 Bayview Road, questioned whether the budget contemplated future projects and purchases including unforeseen equipment breakdown, etc. D. Schriver explained the reserves were the same amounts as in the past. R. Borowski clarified the newsletter expenses included the Muskrat Control Program and related mailings as well as the newsletter. Goose testing and Goose Round-up costs were included in Animal Control.

Sandra Miller, N65W35103 Road J, questioned the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program noted in the newsletter. T. Godar explained the program had been advertised in the newsletter and at other events with little response. The grant that funded the program would not provide enough payment for off-duty police officers as an alternative. A new strategy would need to be considered in the future. There were other groups in the area that were experiencing similar situations in getting the program started so a larger community conversation was also needed. B. Mueller also noted there was no running water at the new DNR launch site so the program was difficult to implement as a result. The grant money could not be used to put running water at the launch site.

R. Koch moved to approve the Proposed 2019 Budget as presented. S. Lovas seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Nomination of Candidate to the OLMD Board

C. Wilson explained that Commissioner Dee Schriver's three year term was complete and her Board position was up for re-election. C. Wilson then asked three times whether anyone in the audience would like to run for this Commission seat.

There were no volunteers.

Self-introduction and Questions to Candidate from the Board and Floor

D. Schriver introduced herself, noting she was willing to serve another three year term on the Board.

Election of Commissioners

T. Godar nominated Dee Schriver to the OLMD Board. The nomination was seconded by D. Larson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried unanimously. D. Schriver accepted and will serve a three year term from 2018-2021 as a Commissioner.

Other Lake Management Issues or New Business, Discuss and Act within Open Meeting Law Limits

Issues of concern related to the change in chemical weed application treatment dates that negatively impacted weed growth, especially in Tierney Bay, were shared at this time. In addition, concern regarding the legality of items placed in the lake to divert or stifle weed growth was also shared. Doug Grant and his family had operated an aerator to address the watermeal and duckweed problem in Tierney Bay. Quotes from outside suppliers regarding manual removal of the weeds included a quote for \$15,000. Part of the issue remained that the spray budget for the entire lake was limited by DNR limits on spraying with recent additional restrictions placed. In the past other chemicals were allowed that resolved the issue; however, the DNR prevented the use of that chemical today. D. Larsen noted the lake weed concern grew every year. He wanted the DNR to be able to work with the District; however, it now seemed that lake groups might want to work cooperatively to gain cooperation through influence of legislators. B. Sokolowicz questioned a recent weed cutter accident on another lake. No information was available. Training took place annually for the cutting crew on Okauchee Lake to avoid accidents. D. Grant provided a report on Tierney Bay pond. He had installed the aeration system last fall and placed the system late in the spring this year. There was a lot of debris that fell from the trees in late spring as a result of the weather. The situation seemed to be improving from year to year overall with some days better than others. The high 90 degree temperatures caused the weed growth to “explode” and he remained committed to working as diligently as possible to maintain the aerator. There were some water flow issues in early summer with the residents of the pond working together to take care of that. Another aerator could potentially be helpful because the weed growth seemed to congregate in the southeastern corner; however, overall the situation seemed improved. He thanked the District for support in this matter.

Report on Results of Election

Dee Schriver was re-elected and would be reinstated as Commissioner for a three year term for the Okauchee Lake Management District.

Adjournment of Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing

D. Grant moved to adjourn from the 2018 Okauchee Lake Management District Annual Meeting. J. Bruner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.